

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 22 and 25 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1-21, 23, 24, and 26-36 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 21, and 24 are amended, and claims 27-36 are added. Claims 1, 13, 21, and 24 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that the Examiner has just now presented new grounds for rejection in this Final Office Action was reviewed.

Amendments to the Specification

The Amendment is revised merely to provide support in the specification for fasteners 122 shown in FIGS. 8 and 9.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 21, 23, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawasaki (U.S. 4,619,476);

claims 3-7 and 15-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kawasaki;

claims 12, 22, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Bettin et al. (U.S. 6,533,339); and

claims 8-11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kawasaki in view of Lemmon (U.S. 6,062, 623).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 13, 21, and 24

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a coupling arm for swingably mounting the lid, wherein the storage indent is indented lower than the coupling arm.

In addition, independent claim 13 is amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a lid for opening and closing the opening, said lid being swingably mounted on the inclined plane portion of the fender via a coupling arm, wherein the indent is indented lower than the coupling arm.

Further, independent claim 21 is amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a storage indent that is indented downwardly on one of fenders, the fenders being respectively provided for all wheels of the vehicle so as to respectively cover the wheels, the one of fenders having an upper face portion and an inclined plane portion, the upper face portion covering an upper portion of one of the wheels approximately horizontally, and the inclined plane portion being inclined so as to be curved along a back upper part of the one of the wheels, the storage indent being provided on the inclined plane.

Still further, independent claim 24 is amended to recite a combination of elements directed to a structure of a storage system, including *inter alia*

a storage container that is inclined to conform to a contours of one of fenders, the fenders being respectively provided for all wheels of the vehicle so as to respectively cover the wheels, the one of fenders having an upper face portion and an inclined plane portion, the upper face portion covering an upper portion of one of the wheels approximately horizontally, and the inclined plane portion being inclined so as to be curved along a back upper part of the one of the wheels.

By contrast, Kawasaki merely discloses a storage portion on the leg shield 11. Kawasaki does not disclose “an indent (a storage indent) indented lower than the hinge portion” of the amended claims 1 and 3.

Further, Bettin et al. (which was combined with Kawasaki to reject dependent claims 12, 22, and 25) merely discloses a storage portion on the body cover having the same height with the opening. Bettin does not disclose “an indent (a storage indent) indented lower than the hinge portion” of the independent claims 1 and 3, as amended.

As such, Bettin et al. cannot make up for the deficiencies of Kawasaki to reject any of independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 24.

In addition, Lemmon (which was combined with Kawasaki to reject dependent claims 8-10 and 20) cannot make up for the deficiencies of Kawasaki to reject any of independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 24.

At least for the reasons above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the references cited by the Examiner, including Kawasaki, Bettin et al. and Lemmon, fail to teach or suggest the combination of elements set forth in each of independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 24.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 13, 21, and 24 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 8 and 9 are amended, and claims 22 and 25 are canceled.

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 8 and 9 are amended, and claims 22 and 25 are canceled.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are now moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

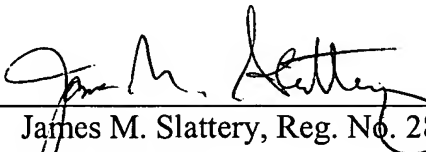
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for

Application No. 10/815,755
Amendment dated August 15, 2005
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any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
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